

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH OLIVER LONG

1. IN RARE ON THE RECORD INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MARCH 3 IN
TRIBUNE DE GENEVE, GATT SECRETARY GENERAL OLIVIER LONG
PROVIDED LARGELY UNNOTEWORTHY
OVERVIEW OF THE MTN. SEVERAL POINTS ARE WORTH REPORTING,
HOWEVER.

2. LONG SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS,
WHEN HE DESCRIBED AS THE FIRST "SONEWHAT UNNOTICED" RESULT OF
THE MTN, "WE ARE IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS,
WHERE PARTICIPANTS MAKE THEIR REQUESTS KNOWN AND PRESENT
THEIR PROPOSALS.... THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE ARE THUS ON THE
TABLE; NOW WE HAVE TO PUT THEM TOGETHER" M
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3. ASKED WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL ENTER A DECISIVE PHASE,
LONG REPLIED, " WAIT A FEW MORE WEEKS UNTIL THE GOVERNMENTS OF
THE US AND JAPAN AND THE NEW EC COMMISSION ARE IN PLACE AND
FUNCTIONING AT FULL STEAM...I THINK THAT BY THIS SPRING
THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY ACCELERATED".

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING A TIMETABLE, LONG SAID, "PERSONALLY, I THINK THAT WHAT COUNTS IS NOT SO MUCH TO FIX A TIMETABLE, ALTHOUGH THAT MIGHT BE GOOD, AS IT IS TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS, AND PARTICULARLY MOST DIFFICULT, ISSUES... MORE THAN A CALENDAR, WHAT COUNTS IS TO NEGOTIATE TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT RESULTS FOR THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE".

5. WHEN ASKED WHAT LESSONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM RECENT ECONOMIC EXPERIENCE, LONG SAID "THE EXPERIENCE OF RECENT YEARS, NOTABLE THAT OF THE RECESSION, CONVINCES ME THAT THE OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE LIBERALIZATION, BUT LIBERALIZATION COUPLED WITH PROTECTIONS AGAINST SAVAGE COMPETITION, THAT IS TO SAY WITH PROCEDURES FOR COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE BODIES, SUCH AS THE ONE CREATED BY GATT IN 1974 FOR TRADE IN TEXTILES. MORE THAN EVER, TRADE MUST BE 'MANAGED' BECAUSE WE ARE ENTERING A PERIOD OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND WEALTH LEADING TO A MORE EGALITARIAN WORLD. IN ORDER THAT THESE CHANGES TAKE PLACE IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, WE MUST INCREASE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION. AND PRECISELY IN THE TOKYO ROUND, A NEW NEGOTIATING GROUP HAS BEGUN WORK TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRADE, THAT IS, TO CONTINUE TO ADAPT THE GATT TO PRESENT DAY REALITIES..."HAFREY

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